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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subject suffering from a disorder of a heart tissue ~~involving loss or apoptosis of cells of the tissue~~ which comprises intramyocardially or intracoronarily administering to the subject an amount of an agent comprising a human stromal derived factor-1 which ~~induces activation of CXCR4 effective to cause proliferation of the cells or inhibit apoptosis of the cells of the tissue within the subject so as to thereby~~ treat the disorder of the heart tissue in the subject, wherein the human stromal derived factor-1 is human stromal derived factor-1 α or human stromal derived factor-1 β .

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the ~~tissue is heart tissue and the cells are~~ disorder of the heart tissue involves loss or apoptosis of cardiomyocytes.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the agent is administered intramyocardially or intracoronarily via (a) a stent, (b) a scaffold, or (c) a slow-release formulation.

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38. (Cancelled).

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the agent is administered intramyocardially.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 45, wherein the human stromal-derived factor-1 is human stromal-derived factor-1 α .

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 45, wherein the human stromal-derived factor-1 is human stromal-derived factor-1 β .

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48. (Canceled).

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the disorder of the heart tissue comprises myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, chronic ischemia, ischemic disease, diabetic heart disease or cardiomyopathy.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the disorder of the heart tissue comprises ischemic disease.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the agent is administered intramyocardially by direct injection into a myocardium.

52. (Cancelled).

53. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the disorder of the heart tissue involves loss or apoptosis of cells in the heart tissue.

54. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the administered amount of the agent effective to treat the disorder of the heart is an amount effective to cause proliferation of cells in the heart tissue or to inhibit apoptosis of cells in the heart tissue.

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55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the cells in the heart tissue are endothelial or smooth muscle cells.
56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the cells in the heart tissue are components of a blood vessel.
57. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the treatment of the disorder of the heart tissue results in an improved ejection fraction of the heart.